Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives H-232, the Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner Republican Leader U.S. House of Representatives H-204, the Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Harry Reid Majority Leader, U.S. Senate S-221, the Capitol Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Republican Leader U.S. Senate H-230, the Capitol Washington, DC 20510

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

As you review legislation for consideration during the final weeks of the 111th Congress, we ask you move an extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program through both the House and Senate.

The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, passed as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, significantly improved the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which was originally developed over 40 years ago to help American workers displaced by trade. <u>Unless TAA is reauthorized by December 31, 2010, all of these important reforms will sunset.</u>

These improvements made service sector workers eligible for the program, expanded access to TAA for manufacturing workers, significantly increased training funding and promoted longer-term training and simplified enrollment deadlines. Additionally, the 2009 reforms improved and made permanent the Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance wage insurance program. Critically, the 2009 Act increased the Health Coverage Tax Credit subsidy to 85 percent and made several important changes to the existing credit designed to minimize gaps in coverage and assure access to insurance policies that meet the health and medical needs of eligible individuals and their families.

Trade Adjustment Assistance has long been a key component in ensuring that the best possible services are available to all American workers. As the new TAA improvements have been implemented, we have witnessed increasing assistance to those most affected by trade in a variety of sectors. Based on the changes that were made, more than 138,000 additional trade impacted workers were eligible for TAA benefits and training opportunities.

During these trying times, every possible federal program serving American workers should be at the top of any short legislative list. We strongly believe that Trade Adjustment Assistance is an integral component of any attempt to serve those suffering through no fault of their own. As always, we thank you for your leadership, tireless work, and consideration of our views on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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Harl Blumenauer Member of Congress	Grace J. Napolitaur Member of Congress
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cc: The Honorable Sander M. Levin
The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Chuck Grassley

Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Request Letter Cosigners

- 1. The Honorable John Lewis
- 2. The Honorable Sander M. Levin
- 3. The Honorable George Miller
- 4. The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark
- 5. The Honorable David Scott
- 6. The Honorable Joe Courtney
- 7. The Honorable Rick Larsen
- 8. The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
- 9. The Honorable Michael F. Doyle
- 10. The Honorable Larry Kissell
- 11. The Honorable Shelley Berkley
- 12. The Honorable James P. McGovern
- 13. The Honorable Jim McDermott
- 14. The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
- 15. The Honorable Mark S. Critz
- 16. The Honorable Sam Farr
- 17. The Honorable Rush D. Holt
- 18. The Honorable Keith Ellison
- 19. The Honorable Gwen Moore
- 20. The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
- 21. The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
- 22. The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
- 23. The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
- 24. The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
- 25. The Honorable Betty McCollum
- 26. The Honorable Daniel Lipinski
- 27. The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
- 28. The Honorable Betty Sutton
- 29. The Honorable Bob Filner
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- 33. The Honorable Barbara Lee
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- 35. The Honorable Adam Smith
- 36. The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
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- 41. The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
- 42. The Honorable Chellie Pingree
- 43. The Honorable Albio Sires
- 44. The Honorable John W. Olver
- 45. The Honorable Dale E. Kildee
- 46. The Honorable Gene Gree

- 47. The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
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- 69. The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
- 70. The Honorable Howard L. Berman
- 71. The Honorable Ron Kind
- 72. The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
- 73. The Honorable Bob Etheridge
- 74. The Honorable John A. Yarmuth
- 75. The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz